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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress inn implementation and international support (resolution 61/229)

Letter dated 30 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the ministerial declaration adopted at the first African Conference on Human Development, which Morocco hosted in Rabat on 6 and 7 April 2007 (see annex).

The participants in the Conference included 45 African countries, represented at the ministerial level, and representatives of donor countries, international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as a development partner, assisted in organizing the Conference.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) El Mostafa **Sahel**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/62/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 30 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Rabat Declaration on human development in Africa

1. We, the African Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Ministers in charge of human development and heads of delegation of Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, participating in the first African Conference on Human Development, under the theme "Community-based cooperation: challenges and prospects",

2. Meeting in Rabat, Morocco, on 6 and 7 April 2007 in order to conduct a constructive exchange of experiences in the field of human development, in the light of the progress made since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration (New York, 2000), and to consider opportunities for improving South-South cooperation among the countries of the African continent,

3. Welcoming the royal message addressed to the Conference by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, which advocates the adoption of a genuine policy to enhance human development in Africa, inter alia through the strengthening of South-South cooperation,

4. Recalling the relevant declarations, plans of action, decisions and recommendations contained in the various international instruments adopted at major international and regional conferences and summits, in particular those held under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as those concerning South-South cooperation,

5. Considering the commitments undertaken by the international community to address the specific needs of Africa,

6. Convinced that human development is a priority of the international community that is likely to meet the essential needs and aspirations of African populations,

7. Recalling that the commitments undertaken in the context of the Millennium Development Goals have given new impetus to efforts to reverse the deterioration of human development indices and offer an unprecedented opportunity to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of African populations,

8. Strongly believing that economic and social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing elements of the process of sustainable human development,

9. Recognizing the central role of education and health in promoting human resources development with a view to achieving harmonious economic, social and political development in Africa,

10. Aware that human development can only be achieved in a context of peace and security and reaffirming, in this connection, our strong commitment to the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts,

11. Concerned about the meagre progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals and about the insufficiency of the resources actually mobilized for their implementation,

12. Recognizing that globalization is both an opportunity and a threat for economic growth and human development and that the vast majority of developing countries, particularly those in Africa, have been unable to take advantage of the benefits of globalization,

13. Reiterating our commitment to the Doha Development Round and supporting the recent resumption of multilateral trade negotiations within the World Trade Organization (WTO),

14. Underscoring the importance of strengthening the African countries' competitiveness and supply capacity and of improving their products' access to world markets as a means of accelerating their economic and social development to an acceptable pace,

15. Noting the urgent need to address the most serious social problems affecting the African continent, particularly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; poverty; unemployment; and social exclusion,

16. Convinced that migration issues comprise a basic development dimension and have major repercussions for human development, and recalling the Tunis, Rabat and Tripoli Declarations on migration and development adopted, respectively, at the conferences held in Tunis, Tunisia, in October 2002; Rabat, Morocco, in July 2006; and Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in November 2006,

17. Believing that each country continues to bear the primary responsibility for its own development and that the African countries must take it upon themselves to pursue their economic and social reform agendas and to promote the rule of law, good governance and democracy and the empowerment of women in development, with a view to enhancing their ability to achieve sustained and sustainable growth,

18. Recalling, in this connection, the commitments undertaken by the international community, and particularly by the developed countries, to support the African countries' development efforts, including by increasing official development assistance, providing more debt relief and boosting investment flows,

19. Deeply convinced that subregional groupings and institutions play a key role in the achievement of regional integration objectives and optimal resource exploitation in their respective areas,

20. Convinced that South-South cooperation is an essential means of maximizing potential, sharing competencies in order to promote human development on our continent and strengthening North-South and triangular cooperation,

21. Believing that civil society and the private sector should play a role and be effectively involved in the implementation of national human development policies,

22. Taking into account the countries' respective experiences in the area of human development, as described by the various delegations:

We undertake to:

23. Tap all available potential to build a genuine process of African cooperation in the field of human development, and strengthen our resolve to promote such cooperation in our regional and subregional strategies and plans of action;

24. Encourage inter-African partnerships between national human development actors in order to share experiences and expertise and to create the synergies needed for better resource utilization;

Millennium Development Goals and local development:

25. Promote the values of solidarity and unity among our countries, and cooperate closely with a view to expediting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

26. Promote economic and social policies favourable to the most disadvantaged population groups in order to increase income and reduce poverty in these groups, including by creating and diversifying income-generating activities in landlocked or disadvantaged areas;

27. Implement specific programmes, including hydro-agricultural and income diversification schemes, for the benefit of rural populations in order to address the problem of irregular crop yields and help to strengthen food security;

28. Establish, in each African country, a microcredit promotion mechanism to support the productive capacities of disadvantaged population groups;

29. Promote the formal and non-formal education programmes introduced by the African countries and encourage development partners to lend them effective support, with a view to strengthening and expediting efforts to combat illiteracy and marginalization, particularly in rural areas;

30. Draw up, implement and support plans of action in our countries to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and to improve access to affordable medicines;

31. Increase investment in community social services and infrastructure;

32. Encourage adequate financing of the World Solidarity Fund established by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2002 to enable it to contribute to efforts to reduce poverty and exclusion in the poorest countries;

Gender equality:

33. Promote gender equity and equality as a means of stimulating economic and social development and fostering the full participation of women for sustainable human development;

34. Support, in our human development policies and laws, equal opportunity for women and men in terms of access to resources, education, employment and social services;

35. Promote women's participation in local, national, regional and international decision-making processes;

Governance:

36. Promote the emergence of a development dynamic through grass-roots participation and ownership of the development process;

37. Encourage the involvement of citizens and decentralized entities in the design and implementation of policies and programmes targeting them, which should be based on participation, partnership, consistency and good governance;

38. Gradually implement decentralized management policies in order to support decentralization reforms aimed at increasing the direct impact of development programmes on their target populations;

39. Increase investment in governance institutions in order to build the capacities of stakeholders, particularly in terms of the planning, preparation and monitoring of finance and resource management policies;

40. Encourage exchanges of experiences among African countries in the areas of decentralization, capacity-building and resource management, on the basis of good practices.

We encourage:

41. The creation of an African network of human development experts and the establishment of national focal points to coordinate national networks of experts;

42. The organization of an African forum of planning and statistics institutions in order to advance the analysis of human development indicator tables to better adapt them to the socio-economic circumstances of African countries, thereby enhancing the credibility and relevance of the parameters used to calculate human development indices;

43. We decide to establish a follow-up committee consisting of the expanded Bureau of the Conference for the purpose of submitting proposals for the preparation of the next Conference and ensuring continuity, with a view to elaborating a strategic plan for South-South partnership and a human development platform among African countries. This follow-up committee shall meet within six months;

44. We express our warmest thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for its hospitality and excellent work in organizing this Conference;

45. We welcome the proposal of the Gabonese Republic to host, in 2009, the second African Conference on Human Development.

Rabat, 7 April 2007